
HOUSE BILL 2559

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2008 Regular Session

By Representatives Hudgins, McCoy, VanDeWege, Hasegawa, Ormsby,
Campbell, and Chase

Prefiled 01/08/08. Read first time 01/14/08. Referred to Committee
on Technology, Energy & Communications.

1 AN ACT Relating to a statewide high-speed internet deployment and
2 adoption initiative; adding a new section to chapter 43.105 RCW; and
3 creating a new section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the deployment
6 and adoption of telecommunications services and information technology
7 has resulted in enhanced economic development and public safety for the
8 state's communities, improved health care and educational
9 opportunities, and a better quality of life for the state's residents.
10 Further, continued progress in the deployment and adoption of high-
11 speed internet and other advanced telecommunications services, both
12 land-based and wireless, is vital to ensuring Washington remains
13 competitive and continues to create business and job growth. The
14 legislature finds that the state must encourage and support strategic
15 partnerships of public, private, and nonprofit sectors in the continued
16 growth and development of telecommunications and information technology
17 for state residents and businesses, and do so through formalized and
18 structured arrangements like the highly successful K-20 network
19 established in chapter 43.105 RCW.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.105 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 (1) The department, as the state agency responsible for
4 coordinating with the education sectors on the K-20 network, shall work
5 in a similar partnership with the department of community, trade, and
6 economic development and the state utilities and transportation
7 commission to lead a comprehensive, statewide high-speed internet
8 deployment and adoption initiative to:

9 (a) Ensure all residents and businesses of the state have access to
10 affordable and reliable high-speed internet services;

11 (b) Achieve improved technology literacy, increased computer
12 ownership, and high-speed internet use among state residents and
13 businesses;

14 (c) Establish and empower local technology planning teams and
15 partnerships to plan for improved technology use across multiple
16 community sectors; and

17 (d) Establish and sustain an environment ripe for
18 telecommunications and technology investment statewide, including
19 solicitation and receipt of grants, loans, and other financial
20 mechanisms.

21 (2) The partnership set forth in subsection (1) of this section
22 shall include input and cooperation among public, private, and
23 nonprofit agencies and organizations representing economic development,
24 local community development, technology planning, education, health
25 care, and other relevant entities. The partnership shall additionally
26 collaborate with telecommunications providers, technology companies,
27 telecommunications unions, community-based organizations, and relevant
28 private sector entities to achieve the purposes set forth in subsection
29 (1) of this section.

30 (3) The high-speed internet deployment and adoption initiative set
31 forth in subsection (1) of this section must include, but is not
32 limited to:

33 (a) Creating and regularly updating a geographic statewide
34 inventory of high-speed internet service and other relevant
35 telecommunications and information technology services. The inventory
36 must:

37 (i) Identify geographic gaps in high-speed internet service through

1 a method of GIS mapping of service availability and GIS analysis at the
2 census block level;

3 (ii) Provide a baseline assessment of statewide high-speed internet
4 deployment in terms of percentage of households and businesses with
5 high-speed internet availability;

6 (iii) Provide updates to these data every six months; and

7 (iv) Build upon the initial utilities and transportation
8 commission's broadband disparity study authorized by the legislature in
9 2007;

10 (b) Tracking statewide residential and business adoption of high-
11 speed internet, computers, and related information technology,
12 identifying barriers to adoption, and measuring progress on these data
13 annually;

14 (c) Building and facilitating local technology planning teams and
15 partnerships with members representing cross-sections of the community,
16 including but not limited to representatives of business,
17 telecommunications unions, K-12 education, health care, libraries,
18 higher education, community-based organizations, local government,
19 tourism, parks and recreation, and agriculture. Local technology
20 planning teams shall benchmark technology use across relevant community
21 sectors, set goals for improving technology use within each sector, and
22 develop tactical business plans for achieving identified goals, with
23 specific recommendations for online application development and demand
24 creation;

25 (d) Working collaboratively with high-speed internet providers and
26 technology companies across the state to encourage deployment and use,
27 especially in underserved areas, through use of local demand
28 aggregation, mapping analysis, and creation of market intelligence to
29 improve the investment rationale and business case; and

30 (e) Establishing programs to improve computer ownership and
31 internet access for unserved and underserved populations across the
32 state.

33 (4) The partnership set forth in subsection (1) of this section may
34 contract with other organizations to accomplish the objectives set
35 forth in this section. Such an organization must have an established
36 competency in working with public and private sectors to accomplish
37 wide-scale deployment and adoption of telecommunications and
38 information technology.

1 (5) The partnership set forth in subsection (1) of this section
2 shall provide a report on the partnership's activities to the fiscal
3 and telecommunications committees in the senate and house of
4 representatives, together with any recommendations for strengthening
5 the program. The report must be provided annually not later than
6 December 1st, beginning in 2009, and cover the preceding fiscal year.

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